

of policy all the town poplars have been removed and I have not seen the moth for five years.

Another Clearwing which is now much rarer is *A. formicaeformis* Esp., owing to the osiers used in basket-making being no longer grown. This moth had several ways of feeding. In the new shoots it made a smooth symmetrical gall. When I lived at Faversham from 1924-28 there was a large osier-bed that had not been touched for ten years or more, and was gradually being destroyed for the brick-earth on which it grew. I found the larvae both in the young shoots and also in the big trunks, about as thick as a man's wrist, usually in the fork. These required a big lump of the trunk being brought home, but as the bed was being destroyed I was allowed to cut out sections with a saw. The specimens bred from the trunk were invariably smaller than those from the shoots, probably from the hard drier wood. I still have examples of both.

*Formicaeformis* is common in the Coomerkane Valley, near Glengarriff, Co. Cork, where it feeds in the sallows by the side of the road, seeming to prefer those cropped by goats, although these pests must eat a lot of the larvae.

Fryer used to breed *formicaeformis* by sawing off the tops of the stumps from which the osier shoots sprang, in the same way as is done for *A. culiciformis* L. on birch.

## Notes and Observations

MYTHIMNA LOREYI DUP. (THE COSMOPOLITAN), COLIAS CROCEUS GEOFF. AND OTHER IMMIGRANTS IN CORNWALL IN 1975. — At the Lizard, Cornwall, in August, I took the following at light: *Mythimna loreyi* Dup. (24th, one, 28th, two), *Trichoplusia ni*. Hb. (26th, one), and *Hyles lineata* F. ssp. *livornica* Esp. (24th, one, 25th, one). By day, I noted several *Macroglossum stellatarum* L., many *Cynthia cardui* L. and about 40 *Colias croceus* Geoff., including one female of the pale form. — BERNARD F. SKINNER, 85, Elder Road, West Norwood, London, S.E.27.

AN EXCESS OF ORGYIA ANTIQUA LINN. (THE VAPOURER). — Acting upon a rumour I visited Coventry City centre on Sunday 27th July where I was presented with an incredible sight. The moth was in all stages of development, batches of eggs, larvae in all sizes, cocoons and imagos. Every new leafless branch of the street trees was enveloped with a haze of cocoons, some forks having up to twenty spun one on the other. The never ending army of larvae had progressed to pavements below regardless of pedestrian traffic. The nearby telephone exchange building was smothered with eggs from wingless females which themselves hung in scores from windows and ledges. Larvae reached unnerving heights in their fruitless quest for food. Never have I seen such enormous numbers of any species in so small an area. It seemed strange that up to this date I had not even a bred series in any of my cabinets. — DAVID BROWN, Charlecote, Warwick.